CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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Statement by Ambassador K. Asakai at the informal meeting of ENDC on 13 August 1969

1. At the 424th meeting of July 31, I put forward a suggestion concerning the system of verification which would monitor underground nuclear explosions. My suggestion consisted of four specific measures. First, to expand and improve the network of seismological observatories; second, to promote the international exchange of seismic data; third, to establish an international centre which will process all these data promptly; and finally, to establish an international monitoring centre which shall objectively analyse these data.

The Canadian suggestion concerning the registration of seismographic stations contained in its working paper (ENDC/251) is, we believe, the first step toward the expansion and improvement of the network of seismological observatories and the promotion of international exchange of seismic data which I have just mentioned.

It is for this reason and in this sense that the Japanese Delegation supports the purport of the Canadian working paper.

2. However, I have some comments to make on this working paper.

The Canadian working paper states "the ENDC requests the governments concerned to supply to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for transmission to the ENDC, a list of all its seismic stations from which it would be prepared to supply (relevant) records."

If we adopt such a procedure, information concerning the instrumentation and components recorded which is to be supplied by the governments concerned in accordance with the Canadian formula could well become divergent in ways of its description.

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In order to obtain the unified answer it might be advisable that the lists of seismographic stations which have already been prepared by such international or major national centres as those in Edinburgh, Strasbourg, Moscow, Washington and Tokyo, should be compiled into a list with appropriate format, which then shall be sent to the Governments concerned, requesting them to correct and complement it.

Particular attention must be paid to the station list prepared by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey which covers almost all seismological observatories in the world, although that list does not contain description of the instruments employed in the observatories. I must also refer to "Parameters etc. of the Main Seismic Stations of USSR" prepared by the Institute of Physics of the Earth, Academy of Sciences of USSR, which well describes the characteristics of the instruments employed in the main Soviet Stations.

3. With regard to the data to be exchanged, the Canadian proposal seems to cover seismogram copies only. But, as I explained in my statement on July 31, my Delegation attaches an equal importance to the interpretation message to be sent to one international centre by cable every day. It seems to be advisable to register all observatories which can provide a daily interpretation message and/or seismogram copies.

It may be added, that if all seismogram data are to be exchanged, they will be too voluminous to be properly dealt with. In our view, therefore, it may be more practical to obtain necessary data on a request basis, as I suggested on July 31.

4. Now, Mr. Chairman, I must beg your indulgence for making some detailed and technical comments on the Canadian working paper. I do this as the paper under reference itself deals with technical points.

First, it might be better to replace the word "Photographic" of (a) of Page two of the working paper by "graphic", because recordings are made in the form of ink-writing or heated-stylus as well. May I also suggest that the name of the operating organization, the address and the date of the beginning of observation should be added after the name of station of (a) (i) and (b) (i) of Page two?

I would also like to suggest the addition of the words "height above the sea level, geological and geomorphological description of the station foundation" after the words "coordinates of station" which are found in (a) (ii) and (b) (ii) of Page two.

The Canadian working paper also states in the middle of page two that "original records or good quality microfilm, and if the latter, whether the microfilm would be 16.35 of 70 millimetre film", but it seems to us that this part is too strict and detailed. My delegation prefers that this part be replaced by "original records or some appropriate copies".

5. I hope that the Canadian Delegation will give due regard to the suggestions made in this informal meeting and submit to the ENDC its revised working paper for final adoption by the United Nations General Assembly at its coming session.